

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 JAKART 02525 251204Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 126587

R 250823Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2882

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

S E C R E T JAKARTA 2525

EXDIS

WELLINGTON FOR ASST. SECY. BABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PT, ID, US

SUBJ: US AND TIMOR QUESTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL

REF: 75 USUN 6948

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION WHICH INDICATES UN SPECIAL ENVOY WINSPEARE GUICCIARDI (POSSIBLY NOW IN GENEVA) WHO VISITED INDONESIA, TIMOR AND AUSTRALIA IN LATE JANUARY- EARLY FEBRUARY, IS NOW COMPLETING HIS REPORT ON PORTUGUESE TIMOR (PT) FOR SUBMISSION TO UN. GOI REPORTEDLY BELIEVES SECURITY COUNCIL (SC) WILL TAKE UP TIMOR ISSUE SHORTLY THEREAFTER.

2. WHILE WE HAVE NO INFORMATION CONCERNING PROBABLE CONTENTS OF WINSPEARE'S REPORT, HIS INABILITY TO VISIT FRETILIN-HELD PARTS OF PT GIVES RISE TO POSSIBILITY REPORT WILL CONTAIN AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF CRITICISM OF INDONESIA'S ROLE IN PT, INCLUDING GOI'S INABILITY/UNWILLINGNESS TO ASSIST HIM TO VISIT FRETILIN-HELD AREAS. FACT THAT INDONESIAN FORCES HAVE NOT BEEN WITHDRAWN, AS CALLED FOR IN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION (REFTEL) INCREASES LIKELIHOOD OF CRITICISM OF GOI.

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3. WINSPEARE'S REPORT LIKELY TO INCLUDE THREE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH WOULD BE POLITICALLY DELICATE FOR GOI:

A) THAT WINSPEARE RETURN TO TIMOR TO VISIT FRETILIN-HELD AREAS (UNLESS UDT/APODETI FORCES HAVE WON COMPLETE VICTORY);
B) THAT INDONESIAN TROOPS BE WITHDRAWN AND C) THAT PLEBESCITE BE HELD TO ENSURE TIMORESE EXERCISE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION CALLED FOR IN SC RESOLUTION (REFTEL).
GIVEN US SUPPORT FOR SC RESOLUTION, AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT CONGRESSIONAL AND OTHER VIEWS, I BELIEVE WE WILL FEEL OBLIGED TO VOTE FOR ANY NEW RESOLUTION WHICH INCLUDED THESE POINTS.

4. GIVEN EXTREME INDONESIAN SENSITIVITY PT QUESTION - A SENSITIVITY HEIGHTENED BY RECENT CRITICISM THAT GOI-'S PRO-WESTERN POLICY HAS LOST IT THIRD WORLD SUPPORT ON PT - OUR ACTIONS WILL BE CLOSELY OBSERVE HERE. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT, KEEPING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AMB. SANI, WE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ASSURE ANY NEW RESOLUTION SPRINGING FROM WINSPEARE REPORT BE WORDED IN MANNER REASONABLY ACCEPTABLE TO INDONESIANS. IF WE FIND THAT, DESPITE OUR BEST EFFORTS, THIS NOT POSSIBLE, I WOULD HOPE TO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION TO HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOI BEFORE WE MAKE IT KNOWN PUBLICLY IN NEW YORK.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PERSONNEL TRAVEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976JAKART02525
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760071-0656
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760215/aaaaamwc.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US AND TIMOR QUESTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL
TAGS: PFOR, PT, ID, US, UNSC, (GUICCIARDI, WINSPEARE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006